

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) Vertebral osteosynthesis equipment comprising:

 bony anchoring members, such as wherein said bony anchoring members are pedicular screws (1), forceps or hooks, i
 one or two linking rods (2), intended to be capable of being connected to these said bony anchoring members, i and
 connection assemblies (6, 3, 4, 10, 11 ; 40, 50, 4) of this or these rods (2) capable of connecting said linking rods to these said bony anchoring members,

 wherein at least one of these said bony anchoring members (1) being of the "polyaxial" type, i.e. including a connection assembly (6, 3, 4, 10, 11 ; 40, 50, 4) is a polyaxial anchoring element having a connection part articulated with respect to a base portion (5) intended to be attached to the vertebra;

Equipment characterized in that said "polyaxial" said polyaxial anchoring element (1) comprises a junction portion (7, 40) connecting a portion (6, 50) of said connection assembly (6, 3, 4, 10, 11 ; 40, 50, 4) assemblies and said base portion (5), this, said junction portion having a flexible structure providing the a desirable joint of this said connection assembly assemblies (6, 3, 4, 10, 11 ; 40, 50, 4) with respect to the base portion (5).

2. **(Currently amended)** ~~Equipment~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said junction portion is formed by a part (7) distinct from the connection part ~~(6, 50)~~ of said connection assembly ~~(6, 3, 4, 10, 11 ; 40, 50, 4)~~ assemblies and of the said base portion ~~(5)~~.

3. **(Currently amended)** ~~Equipment~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said junction portion ~~may then notably be is~~ composed of a rod ~~(7)~~ of flexible material.

4. **(Currently amended)** ~~Equipment~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said junction portion is composed of an extension ~~(40)~~ of the said base portion ~~(5)~~ or of said part ~~(50)~~ of the said connection ~~assembly~~ assemblies, made flexible by an appropriate shape and/or by slots ~~(41)~~ or recesses ~~(45)~~.

5. **(Currently amended)** ~~Equipment~~ The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said extension ~~(40)~~ ~~may for instance have~~ has a tubular structure and ~~exhibit~~ exhibits a helicoid slot ~~(41)~~, or ~~may exhibit~~ or stepped radial recesses ~~(45)~~, preferably offset angularly.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment—~~The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~wherein said junction portion and the links of said part of said connection ~~assembly—~~assemblies and of said base portion ~~may be designed~~are adapted so that said part of said connection ~~assembly—~~assemblies and said base portion are never in contact with one another.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment—~~The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that the~~wherein said junction portion ~~(7)~~ is slightly stretchable longitudinally and means ~~(6, 9, 3, 4, 10, 11)~~ are provided to ~~stretch and~~ is capable of stretching this—said junction portion ~~(7)~~ slightly longitudinally, enabling to space the surfaces away from one another whereas said part ~~(6)~~ of said connection ~~assembly—~~assemblies and ~~the~~ said base portion ~~(5)~~ contact one another.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment—~~The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein surfaces by which said part ~~(6)~~ of said connection ~~assembly—~~assemblies and ~~the~~ said base portion ~~(5)~~ contact one another, and may be shaped to guide the movement of the joint of ~~this—said~~ connection part ~~(6)~~ with respect to the base portion ~~(5)~~.

9. (Currently amended) ~~Equipment—~~The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 8, ~~characterized in~~

~~that~~wherein said surfaces of ~~the said part (6)~~ of said connection ~~assembly assemblies~~ and of ~~the said~~ base portion ~~(5)~~ may be bordered by lateral bearing surfaces, enabling lateral wedging of said part ~~(6)~~ with respect to ~~the said~~ base portion ~~(5)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Equipment~~—The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said polyaxial anchoring element ~~(1)~~ of "polyaxial" ~~type~~ comprises at least one part or a portion of said part (10) with elastically deformable structure, placed after assembly, between ~~a said part (11)~~ of the connection ~~assembly assemblies~~ and said base portion ~~(5)~~, ~~this said part or portion of said part (10)~~ with elastically deformable structure enabling mobility of the connection ~~assembly assemblies~~, and hence of ~~the said~~ linking rod ~~(2)~~, with respect to ~~the said~~ base portion ~~(5)~~, with a dampening effect.

11. (New) The vertebral osteosynthesis equipment according to claim 5, wherein said stepped radial recesses are offset angularly.